

IN HONOR OF THE 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARK AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Park Avenue Christian Church as it celebrates its 188th anniversary. The Church held a Homecoming Celebration on October 17 and 18.

The Christian church, which traces its roots back to the Scottish reformation, first emerged on the American Frontier in the early 1800's. On October 10, 1810, nine members of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of New York City formed themselves as "The Disciples of Christ." In 1945, the congregation moved to its present site at 1010 Park Avenue and renamed itself the Park Avenue Christian Church.

As the oldest congregation within the Christian Church, the Park Avenue Christian Church delivers a progressive, positive message as an international, interracial, and inclusive community.

Originally built as the old South Dutch Reformed Church in 1911, the sanctuary was inspired by La Sainte Chapelle in Paris. The Church is an impressive structure on Park Avenue with buttress-supports and Tiffany stained glass windows. In 1963, the Church built a new education building on the site of the original parish house; in 1982, a 56 rank organ was added to the Church.

In 1989, the Park Avenue Christian Church embarked on a massive renovation. This restoration not only ensured the preservation of the Church into its third century of existence, but also helped to revitalize the congregation's commitment to its mission to the world founded on freedom, diversity, and tradition.

The Park Avenue Christian Church plays an integral role in fostering a sense of community on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. The congregation is deeply rooted in social responsibility, which greatly benefits the Park Avenue community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention the Park Avenue Christian Church, as it celebrates its 188th anniversary. I would also like to pay tribute to Senior Minister Reverend John Wade Payne and Associate minister Reverend Allen V. Harris for their dedication to the Park Avenue Christian Church and the surrounding community.

STATEMENT ON MAYOR BARRY'S RETIREMENT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as many in the Congress know, Mayor Marion Barry has decided to leave office at the end of this year after 16 years of service as Mayor. I issued a statement when Mayor Barry announced his retirement in May. I ask for permission to include that statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

After a lifetime of public service and devotion to this city, my friend Marion Barry is

leaving office with the city on the rebound. Sometimes controversial, always congenial, Marion leaves with his infectious optimism about the city he loves intact. The man who invented politics in D.C. was also its most skillful and resilient practitioner. He always called me his "warrior" on the Hill. I always knew that my old civil rights buddy would no more settle for second class citizenship here than he did in the movement. Whatever our differences, Marion Barry was my friend before he was Mayor, and he will be my friend when he is no longer Mayor. I wish him well.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS, CA, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, around 1920, a developer named Edwin G. Hart had a vision for about 3,500 acres nestled in the hills of my district. Since the early 1800's, this area had been known as "La Habra Rancho" and was home to ranchers, farmers, and settlers. Edwin Hart set out to develop this land into a remarkable avocado growing belt, divided into large 5-acre parcels and profitable for all his neighbors.

He called it "La Habra Heights."

Gradually, La Habra Heights evolved from an avocado producing area to a tranquil residential community. Today the city of just over 7 square miles has maintained its unique rural character amidst urban Los Angeles County. The residents of this pastoral area, including a large horse riding population, have long enjoyed a peaceful environment in the hills and valleys of their community. Scenic riding trails are connected throughout the heights and are maintained by the Highland Riders. A community-based volunteer fire department has provided protection to its residents for 50 years.

The city of La Habra Heights incorporated on December 4, 1978, and the city has continued to prosper for 20 years. I would like to extend my congratulations to the over 6,800 residents of this community on the occasion of their 20th anniversary as a city on December 4, 1998.

COMMUNITIES PULL TOGETHER AFTER FLOOD DEVASTATION

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend we in central and south Texas experienced extraordinary rain storms which dropped record amounts of rain in only a matter of hours. Some areas received nearly two feet of water in roughly 24 hours. Our normally calm rivers burst over their banks, turning into a racing wall of water. Even now, communities in my district find themselves under water. Roads, houses, farms and ranches have turned into lakes.

Devastation is everywhere. Homes have been torn from their foundations. While lend-

ing a helping hand to others, one rescue worker and her husband watched in horror as their house floated down what was once a street. Many communities have no drinking water, and thousands are only now beginning to return to their homes. For many, all their worldly possessions are gone. Lives lost, businesses flooded, livestock killed, and people's prime investment, their homes, destroyed—that is the legacy of the floods of 1998.

The counties I represent include some of the hardest hit areas: Comal, Guadalupe, Bexar and Wilson Counties have not seen this level of destruction in more than a generation or more. In some areas, the Guadalupe River, normally 150 feet wide, stretches three miles across. It may take days or weeks to add up the value of lost property, but we know today already that some have experienced the greatest loss. At least 17 persons have died as a result of these storms, and a number of children remain missing and are feared lost. For the record, I have attached a list of these fatalities. Mr. Speaker, our hearts and prayers go out to these families at this tragic time.

I spent yesterday visiting flood-damaged communities. While the destruction was truly heart-wrenching, I was impressed with the professionalism exhibited by city leaders, law enforcement and emergency service crews. I admired neighborly spirit of the many volunteers who came out to help. In response to this crisis, people from all walks of life came together to battle the water and save lives. The next few days will be critical as the rebuilding begins. I know that, despite the challenges, the people of Texas will pull together and overcome.

HONORING JUDITH MARDEN INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY LIVING Awardee

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judith Marden for service to the Brooklyn community, and congratulate her as a recipient of an Institute for Community Living award.

Judith Marden graduated from Adelphi University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She received her Master of Science Degree in Elementary education from Hofstra University concentrating on courses in sociology and psychology.

After teaching for a number of years, she decided to join her husband Melvin in their contract and design business. At that time she attended the New York School of Interior Design.

For the last twenty-five years, she has taken her background in design, psychology and sociology and applied them to furnishing residences, group homes, and larger facilities. The emphasis has been on establishing a home-like environment to suit the different needs of the individuals living in them.

In her work, Judith has researched the living needs of the homeless, mentally ill, chemically addicted, developmentally disabled, individuals with AIDS, children in foster care, battered women, senior citizens, children and unwed mothers, while working with the agencies that care for and support these populations.